

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6524

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DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, CF

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: MOBUTU AND NETO TALK THROUGH NGOUABI

1. BISENGIMANA CALLED ME AROUND NOON FEBRUARY 16 TO INVITE ME TO LUNCH WITH MOBUTU. NOTHING SPECIAL ON THE PRESIDENT'S MIND, HE SAID, JUST A BITE TO EAT AND A TOUR D'HORIZON--IF I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO. MOBUTU LED OFF BY RECOUNTING HIS FEBRUARY 15 MEETING WITH NGOUABI, EMPHASIZING THAT IT HAD BEEN NETO'S IDEA. ACCORDING TO MOBUTU, NETO HAD SENT THREE EMISSARIES TO NGOUABI WITH A MESSAGE THAT HE WANTED TO WORK OUT AN ACCOMMODATION WITH MOBUTU. THIS, IN ADDITION TO NETO'S RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS CALLING FOR PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE, HAD LED MOBUTU TO AGREE TO MEET NGOUABI TO SEE WHAT THE MPLA LEADER HAD IN MIND.

2. MOBUTU DID NOT TELL ME WHAT NGOUABI HAD TO SAY, OTHER THAN THAT NETO WANTED TO SEND ONE OF HIS TOP ASSISTANTS TO KINSHASA NEXT WEEKEND TO TALK DIRECTLY WITH MOBUTU OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE. MOBUTU AGREED, BUT TOLD NGOUABI THAT NETO HAD TO UNDERSTAND THAT ANY DISCUSSION MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ZAIRE'S INSISTENCE ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) MPLA ASSURANCE THAT THE KATANGAN GENDARMES WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST ZAIRE;

B) SOVIET/CUBAN WITHDRAWAL;

C) THE RETURN TO ANGOLA OF REFUGEES NOW IN ZAIRE;

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D) RETURN TO CABINDA OF REFUGEES NOW IN ZAIRE AND AN

"AUTONOMOUS STATUS" FOR THE ENCLAVE.

3. MOBUTU ALSO SAID THAT WHILE HE WOULD NOT BEG NETO, HE HAD TO GET THE BENGUELA RAILROAD OPEN; THUS THIS ISSUE TOO WOULD BE ON THE HIDDEN AGENDA. ON THE FUTURE OF THE FNLA AND UNITA, MOBUTU REPEATED THAT HE WOULD NOT ALLOW ZAIRE TO BE USED AS A GUERRILLA BASE FOR EITHER OF THE TWO MOVEMENTS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT RETREAT IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH THE MPLA FROM HIS CALL FOR A COALITION GOVERNMENT, BUT HE RECOGNIZED THAT NETO COULD NOT ACCEPT HOLDEN OR SAVIMBI. HE DID THINK NETO COULD BRING OTHER FNLA/UNITA REPRESENTATIVES INTO A COALITION AND SAID HE WOULD PUSH FOR THIS.

4. I ASKED MOBUTU IF NETO WAS PRESSING FOR ZAIRIAN RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA GOVERNMENT, AND HE ANSWERED THAT HE WOULD NOT KNOW WHAT NETO WANTED UNTIL HIS REPRESENTATIVE CAME NEXT WEEKEND. BUT, HE SAID, "I AM IN NO HURRY TO RECOGNIZE." MOBUTU THEN SHIFTED THE DISCUSSION TO KAUNDA WHO, HE SAID, SEEMED TO BE WAVERING TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF THE MPLA, UNDER PRESSURE FROM NYERERE. MOBUTU SAID THAT HE HAD SENT A MESSAGE TO KAUNDA ASKING HIM TO SEND HIS FOREIGN MINISTER TO KINSHASA FOR URGENT DISCUSSION. BANDA SHOULD ARRIVE HERE FEBRUARY 17.
WALKER

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